



03 Sept. 2014

## **How the Sakharov Prize 2014 is awarded**

### **Background briefing**

In the next 10 days, the nominations of the Sakharov Prize for Human Rights will be decided by the European Parliament. The prize is awarded to “honour exceptional individuals who combat intolerance, fanaticism and oppression.”<sup>1</sup> Previous winners include Nelson Mandela, Reporters without Borders and Anatoli Marchenko.

If you believe that Azerbaijani human rights defenders – who are now in jail following years of work on behalf of the rights of others, and most recently on a list of political prisoners in Azerbaijan (on which they are now included) – then let the MEPs who vote on this know.

Nominations for the Sakharov Prize can be made by:

- [Political groups in the European Parliament.](#)
- Or
- At least 40 MEPs.

The deadline for nominations is Thursday 18 September at 12:00 in Strasbourg.

**NOTE:** In order to decide on a nominee from their group some political groups have internal deadlines **in the course of the next week**. The next days are crucial.

We focus here on four important political groups which might support this nomination:

- [The EPP](#)
- [Social Democrats](#)
- [Liberals](#)
- [Greens](#)

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<sup>1</sup>Source: The European Union website:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/00f3dd2249/Sakharov-Prize-for-Freedom-of-Thought.html>

Once the nominations are been made, the Foreign Affairs and Development committees vote on a shortlist of three finalists. This happens on either Monday 6<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

The members list for the foreign affairs committee can be found here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/afet/members.html>, while the development committee is here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/deve/members.html#menuzone>.

The winner, chosen from the three finalists, is selected by the Conference of Presidents. This happens on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. More information on the Conference of Presidents is here: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/organs/confpres/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/organs/confpres/default_en.htm)

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